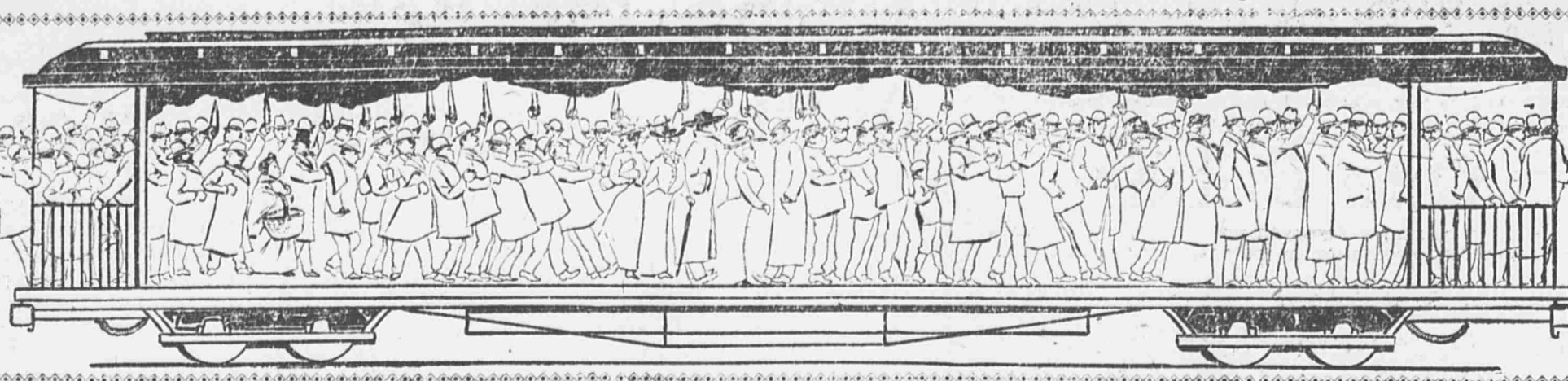


AN "L" CAR ON THIRD AVENUE ROAD AT 8 A. M. TO-DAY; SEATS FORTY-EIGHT, 127 PEOPLE SQUEEZED INTO IT.



COMFORT THROWN TO WINDS

Facilities of Surface and Elevated Lines Wholly Inadequate, with Situation Daily Growing Worse.

COMFORT THROWN TO WINDS

Complaints of Annoying Delays Met by Statements of the Officials that They Have Reached Limit of Carrying Power.

New York is face to face with the largest proposition that has been before it since it became a big city. This is the problem of transportation. Never has the failure of the elevated and surface lines been so absolute, never the need so acute. It has come to this, that decency, is outraged, comfort banished, lives endangered and business held up.

The officials of the transportation companies have reached that point where they admit they are powerless. The crowds swell daily, the city goes on constantly increasing its numbers by leaps and bounds and the supply of cars stand stationary. Instead of getting better or even no worse, the situation must become more and more grave for the next year unless some method for handling the crowds, which as yet has not been suggested, can be devised.

The public clamors, howls, showers abuse and demands better service. The transportation companies explain and dodge and connote, but the service gets no better. What is the public going to do about it?

Aldermen Must Find Out. That is what the Board of Aldermen has got to find out. The Mechanic's Association has taken the matter up. Borough President Cantor has been appealed to for help in the fight. The Aldermen will undoubtedly try to take action. What it will be is another matter. It is probable that the Board will name a commission of experts to investigate the question and determine the facts.

So far as the Metropolitan Street Railway is concerned, President Vreeland has time and again asserted that it is useless to think of running more cars in the rush hours. He has explained that on Broadway there is almost a continuous line of cars from one end of the street to the other. To put on more simply means that none of them would be able to make any headway and the miserably bad condition of the tracks from the Battery to Forty-second street would be changed, perhaps, to an hour and fifteen minutes, or more, in the number of cars.

Complicated by Third Rail. As to the Manhattan Elevated road, the present situation is complicated by the introduction at this time of the third rail system. It is a very serious problem. There was no snow storm yesterday, and there never was a snow storm. The cars were never unbearably crowded than yesterday. It was actually dangerous for a woman to get on the cars late in the afternoon, when the swarms from the shopping districts were trying to get up and down.

These are some more questions which this commission will have to look into and report upon. The New York must suffer, women must be mangled, children trampled upon, men get late to their business and lose their jobs and millions of dollars be lost by the waste of time daily of hundreds of thousands of producers.

Take the trains to-day for instance. By actual count eighty-seven persons, and most of them women, were kept a footling in a downtown Third Avenue car to-day. There are seats for forty-eight persons in each car, and the cars are crowded with passengers on either side, makes a fair load with eighty.

Yet this party car sank into insignificance when compared with human beings who jammed themselves into the Ninth Avenue car. In a single car one hundred and twenty-eight persons were crowded, and there was not a bit more room. The Third Avenue car was not a train passing the Cortlandt street station, but a train containing from ten to forty passengers above the normal eighty.

Conditions upon the Sixth Avenue cars were very little better. Half the trains, even those made up of the new cars and operated by electric motors, pulled northward with excessive loads, and there was no one to stop the crush at the station. In four trains of six cars each rode 2,622 persons, and after leaving Cortlandt street over sixty additional passengers were crowded upon the platforms of the last train.

Reached Its Limit. The elevated railroad simply cannot respond to the demands made upon it by a population which is three times greater than that which rode in cars in 1878, when the lines were built and put in operation. It is true that some improvements have been made in the rolling stock. It is practically the same to-day as when the first cars moved over the rails. The placing of the old cars upon the Second Avenue line and the placing of the new cars upon the Third Avenue line, while improvements in a way, have done very little to relieve the increased demands upon the trains.

Every car that leaves South Ferry is taxed to its capacity at night, and the same distressing conditions prevail on the other end of the lines early in the morning, when Harlem and the Bronx wake up and start to work.

The officials of the elevated admit their inability to do more. It is up to the city and the city to find out if there is anything more to be done, and if not there is nothing left but to grin and bear it until the subway is opened.

RAIN MADE FIREWORKS. A short circuit on Brooklyn Trolley Wire.

Rain formed a short circuit between the lead wire and the trolley wire on the Brooklyn Avenue line, in front of the Metropolitan station, Brooklyn, to-day, causing great excitement as it sent flames several feet into the air. A crowd of people gathered around the station to see the fire. The fire was extinguished by a fireman who had been called to the station.

Col. John W. Elin Dead. A. MADELPHIA, Dec. 16.—Col. John W. Elin, President of the Civil Service League of Chicago, died in a hospital here yesterday. After making a long and severe illness, he died at the age of 72.

NEARLY LOST HER LIFE ON THE "L" CAR

Woman Forced Off High Platform at One Hundred and Sixteenth Street Between Cars, Fell, Luckily, Parallel to Rails.

NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED.

A woman almost lost her life at the One Hundred and Sixteenth street station of the West Side "L" line to-day because of the frightful crowd of passengers who were jammed into one of the southbound express trains. She was forced off the platform between the cars and the train started. That she was not killed was due to the luck which caused her to fall parallel to the rails.

The victim of the present crowded conditions was Mrs. Clark, of No. 21 West One Hundred and Fourteenth street. She tried to get aboard the Ninth Avenue express about 8 o'clock. There was a mass of men and women behind her and they pushed her forward despite her efforts until she was on the platform. She tried to stay there, but the pressure from behind was so great that she was pushed clear off the platform and fell down on to the tracks.

The train had started by this time and the guard was busy trying to close the gate. The other passengers on the platform saw the woman go down and yelled to the guard to stop the train. This was done after it had gone a half-dozen yards. It was supposed that the woman was dead, but she was not seriously hurt, except that her nerves were so racked that she was hysterical and she was unable to get up. She was taken to the waiting-room, where other passengers sympathized with her. She told them that she had been shoved off the platform by one of the station guards, who wanted to make room enough to close the gate.

It was also said that a man was shoved off onto the tracks at the same station. It is doubly dangerous now to get on the tracks, as since the installation of the third rail system, one not only is run over by the cars but electrocuted.

BAD MAN SHOTS SALOON TO BITS.

He Smashes All the Glassware with Two Revolvers, but Now Reposes in Cell.

A man who called himself Henry Bruckman, announced that he was a cowboy from the wild and woolly West, was a sombrero and carried two enormous seven-shooters, terrified a score of saloon-keepers along upper Eighth Avenue this morning into aiding him in securing a buoyancy that finally led to his arrest after shooting all the bottles and glasses on several bars.

This wild Westerner first got rash in the saloon of Henry Raquet, at the corner of One Hundred and Fourth street and Eighth Avenue. He drifted in there with a heavy sea running under his lee rail, and pulling his sombrero down over his eyes, said fiercely to Mr. Raquet:

"Gimme a drink, an' gimme it quick!" The saloon-keeper replied sarcastically: "I will sell you anything we have, so if you want a drink, here it is!"

"What?" came in a terrific roar from under the sombrero. "What?" and in another second the bar was a mass of splinters. He then turned to the miniature cannons. He is looked for a second time, then escape a missile, and the man from the West kept up his rapid-fire battery until there was not a whole glass or bottle left. Then he roared out with a parting shot, which shattered the plate-glass mirror at the back of the bar into a thousand pieces.

When Mr. Raquet finally dared to crawl out from his hiding place he rushed to the telephone and called the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street station, with the result that several detectives were put on the trail of the "bad man," who finally located him at One Hundred and Seventy-first street and was taken to the station.

HELP CAME IN HIS SORROW. Merchants Betried Bond, Whose Family Was Burned to Death.

Mr. Edward Bond, of No. 242 First Avenue, whose wife and two children were burned to death in the fire which occurred at his residence yesterday, has found friends in his terrible affliction.

Some time previously his wife had bought her household effects from Cox, Smith & Sons, One Hundred and Twenty-first street and Third Avenue, and the firm upon learning the sad circumstances immediately sent a representative to Mr. Bond with a letter of sympathy and a receipted bill in full for the purchase, including also \$10 in cash to pay for any immediate wants.

BROKER MAGOUN DIED SUDDENLY.

Business Cares Supposed to Have Brought on Stroke of Apoplexy, Which Ended Career of Wall Street Man.

STRICKEN AT HIS HOME.

(Special to The Evening World.) BAYLON, L. I., Dec. 16.—George Butler Magoun, youngest son of the late George B. Magoun, a wealthy and prominent New York broker and member of the Stock Exchange, died suddenly early to-day at his country seat here from apoplexy. Mr. Magoun was thirty-three years old.

After returning from business in New York last night he complained of feeling weary, and, after kissing his little daughter good night, retired shortly before nine.

When Mrs. Magoun entered the room a few hours later she found him breathing heavily and summoned Dr. W. W. Hewlett by telephone. The physician worked until after midnight to save him, but failed, the broker dying about 1 A. M. Dr. Hewlett named Coroner Moore and the latter held an inquest to-day and announced that death was due to apoplexy.

Due to Worryment. Mr. Magoun's demise, it is believed, was hastened by worryment over business cares. Besides attending daily to his interests in the Stock Exchange, he was heavily interested in the Acme Ball-Bearing Castor Company, in which he was a director, and was also executor of the large estate of his brother, Kinsley Magoun, who was killed by being thrown from his carriage while on his way to his country seat at Westbury, some three years ago.

His sister-in-law, Jessie Magoun, the widow of Kinsley Magoun, last spring began suit for an accounting of the estate, and this created a bitter feeling between them.

They lived on adjoining estates here and were practically strangers until the widow moved to the city. Mrs. Magoun, who was Miss Jessie N. Torrence, a daughter of Gen. Joseph N. Torrence, of Chicago, averred that her brother-in-law had failed to give an accounting as administrator of her husband's estate, and of money received from her father's estate, from which she has a generous income.

Matter of Detail. She added that at the time of the sudden death of her husband in July, 1898, his brother was appointed administrator, and qualified in the sum of \$100,000 for the proper care of her husband's estate. Matters went smoothly until the latter part of 1900, when Mrs. Magoun attempted to ascertain the condition of her interests. Finally Edward B. Whitney was appointed as an arbitrator, and a grade of jury was called.

Mr. Magoun in discussing the suit at the time said it was a mere matter of detail. Mr. Magoun had been a member of the New York Stock Exchange since Feb. 2, 1899, his father and brother, both of whom are dead, having preceded him as members.

He was a crack wing shot, a member of the Racquet and other New York clubs, also of the Westminster Kennel Club, and was a member of the Christ Episcopal Church. He was born in New York City and was a graduate of Harvard College.

Mrs. Magoun is prostrated by her husband's sudden death.

"DOC" WOOD RETIRES. Nephew of Former Mayor Was Police Examiner Nineteen Years.

Dr. Benjamin Wood, who has been a member of the Board of Police Surgeons for nineteen years, was retired to-day by Commissioner Partridge on a pension of \$1,500.

Dr. Wood is fifty-five years of age and is a nephew of the late Fernando Wood.

TRANSFERS REAL MAD CAT, HUNGRY, ATTACKS FAMILY.

Sinks Claws in Child's Head, Bites Baby Sister, Scratches Mother, Who Gets It Fast in a Crack of the Door.

THEN CAME SCHNURZFETZEL

A tramp tortoise shell cat, made mad by hunger and the cold, leaped from the snow-covered porch back of Otto Essek's residence on Richmond road, Stapleton, S. I., this morning, through a window which had been momentarily opened in the kitchen, and there attacked the children playing with building blocks on the floor.

The cat first landed on the head of Otto, Jr., eight, and as he struck it off its claws dug deep into his scalp. As it fell to the floor it bit viciously at his leg, inflicting severe wounds.

Lulu, his sister, two years younger, attempted to rescue her brother, and as she pulled at the huge bushy tail the animal turned and bit and clawed at her. Mrs. Essek, the mother, attracted by her children's screams, ran into the kitchen, and the cat attacked her, scratching and clinging to her skirt until she ran from the room and tore the animal off by catching it in the crack of the door.

But that was only one of its lives which had been ended. Schnurzfetzel says that he fought that cat for fifteen minutes, landing a killing blow every time, but that the animal seemed to be no more than dead when it would rise and again spring into combat. Time after time the heavy-weight policeman's blows missed and the cat would land on his uniform and as he knocked it with his club it would take in its claws great fragments of blue material.

At last the ninth life of the cat had arrived and with a straight down blow the heavy night stick crashed in the feline's skull. Schnurzfetzel insists that that cat had nine lives anyway, and possibly fifteen.

While a doctor attended the scratches and bites of the children and the policeman the cat was removed by the Board of Health and a chemical analysis will be made to determine if it had the rabies.

Established Over Twenty-five Years. N. S. BRANN, Open Every Evening Till 11. 231 EIGHTH AVE., Bet. 21st and 22d Sts. Manufacturing Jeweler. Make Your Selections Now. By Paying a Deposit We Will Reserve Any Article Until Christmas.

\$100,000.00 Worth of Jewelry at 50 Cents on the Dollar. The shopping public who patronize the big department stores will find it greatly to their advantage to call and see our magnificent selection before buying, as we carry a more extensive stock and prettier designs.

It Will Pay You to Come Miles Out of Your Way. DON'T FAIL TO LOOK AT OUR GREAT BARGAINS BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE.

Brooch or Pendant, \$10. We have bought the entire stock of a large watch factory at a great sacrifice. We offer these Ladies' Handsome 14-karat Solid Gold WEDDING RINGS, with FULL JEWELLED MOVEMENTS, \$10.00. They could not be bought elsewhere for less than \$20. Every Watch Warranted a Perfect Timekeeper. Kept in order free for five years. Ladies' Handsome Engraved Solid Silver Room-Winding Watches, \$3.00.

Large selection of 14-karat Solid Gold Wedding Rings, \$2.75 up. All Watches kept in order free for five years. Engraving done free. Mail orders promptly attended to.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

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Twenty-five different styles of this season's most popular Dress Fabrics in black and colors, including

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All Silk Umbrellas

(For Men and Women)

Elegant Presents at Half the Usual Prices.

26 and 28-inch All Silk Taffeta and Twilled Silk Umbrellas for Men and Women. The quality of the silk is excellent and the frames and steel rods are the best. They come in black and several shades of blue, green, brown, London smoke and garnet. The handles are of natural wood, plain and sterling silver trimmed—ivory, Cape horn, pearl, buck horn, gun metal, with or without silver and gold trimmings—also gold, silver and other fancy handles, at

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Many of the Handles alone are worth from \$5.00 to \$8.00 each. We engrave Umbrellas free of charge.

Women's Outing Flannel Gowns, Skirts and Holiday Aprons

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Women's Outing Flannel Gowns in stripes and plain colors, at.....69c., 79c., 98c

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Women's Heavy Eiderdown Sacques, in blue, gray and red, special at.....79c

Women's fancy trimmed Eiderdown Sacques, in pink, blue, red and violet; special at.....\$1.98 and \$2.25

Women's fine Black Satin Skirts, deep flounce, with tucks and ruffles, at.....\$1.29, \$1.98 and \$2.98

We are showing an unusually fine assortment of

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For the Maid, the Matron and the Miss

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